

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-11 DODE-00 ISO-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 ACDA-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 223

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETRIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

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USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG
CSAF WASHDC//AFINA/SSA
CNO WASHDC//OF-614
DA WASHDC//DAMI-FII
OSD/ISA/EUR WASHDC

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FOR POLADS

USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CSCE, AO, UR, US, FT, XO, IR, SA
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - FEB 20

1. SUMMARY:

--MODERATE U.S. COVERAGE HAS LIGHTER TOUCH
THAN USUAL, IN BACKHANDED WAY, WITH MOST CRITICAL
COMMENTS RESERVED FOR INDIAN OCEAN ACTIVITIES AND ARMS AID
TO PERSIAN GULF.

--CSCE IMPLEMENTATION COVERAGE CONTINUES
WITH MAJOR DEFENSE OF SOVIET "FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY" BY
AUTHORITATIVE "I. ALEKSANDROV" IN PRAVDA (SEPTTEL), BUT
ALSO FAVORABLE MENTION OF BREZHNEV'S BASKET II CONFERENCE
PROPOSAL BY POLISH PM JAROSZEWICZ ON IZVESTIYA FRONT
PAGE.

--PRAVDA COMMENTARY TOURTS RECENT CEMA INITIATIVE TO
EC AS CSCE IMPLEMENTATION TOO (SEPTTEL).

--LIGHT ANGOLA COVERAGE INCLUDES ROBERTO'S ASSURANCE
TO RAND DAILY MAIL THAT CHINESE AID CONTINUES AND WILL
SOON INCREASE, AND MPLA POLITBURO STATEMENT THAT
OPPOSING GROUPS HAVE BEEN "PRACTICALLY" CHASED OUT OF
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COUNTRY.

--FTAI COVERAGE IS EXTREMELY GINGERLY, AND THE
LEAST PRO-SOMALI YET.

2. U.S. MODERATE COVERAGE HAS A LIGHTER TOUCH THAN
USUAL, BUT IN BACKHANDED WAY. RUN-OF-THE-MILL MATERIAL
ON LOCKHEED AND THE MILITARY BUDGET CONTINUES TO APPEAR,

BUT TASS COVERAGE OF CASTRO'S INTERVIEW ON SOVIET TV FEB 19 WHICH APPEARS IN MOST CENTRAL PRESS ALMOST OMITTS U.S., REPORTS ON SECRETARY'S LA TRIP ARE SMALL AND ALMOST STRAIGHT, AND "POSITIVE" PIECES ARE MORE NUMEROUS: MINORITY LEADER RHODES' FAVORABLE COMMENTS ON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS, THE SENATE'S MILITARY AID CUTOFF TO CHILE (AND SENATOR KENNEDY'S PROMINENT ROLE), AND, OF COURSE, GUS HALL'S ANNOUNCEMENT AS CPUSA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE (ALL PRAVDA FEB 20). MEANEST AND MOST WORRIED PIECES CONCERN DIEGO GARCIA, PERSIAN GULF AND INDIA: IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY FEB 19 AND TASS ITEM FROM WASHINGTON IN FEB 20 PRAVDA PAINT ARMS ASSISTANCE TO SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN AS FUEL FOR ARMS RACE, IZVESTIYA HAS INDIAN OCEAN BUILDUP DIRECTED AT INDIA (RECALLING 1971), AND KRASNAYA ZVEZDA FEB 20 LINKS DEFERRAL OF U.S. - INDIAN ECONOMIC TALKS TO POOR INDIAN UN PERFORMANCE, IN TASS ITEM FROM WASHINGTON. KZ ALSO REPORTS ANZUS MANEUVER IN TASS ITEM FROM LONDON.

3. CSCE IMPLEMENTATION. ASIDE FROM MAJOR PRAVDA COMMENTARY ON FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN SOVIET UNION BY AUTHORITATIVE PSEUDONYMOUS "I. ALESANDROV," PRESS CARRIES TWO SMALLER CSCE-RELATED ITEMS OF INTEREST: PRAVDA FEB 20 FRONT-PAGES SHORT REPORT THAT ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FINALLY PUBLISHED FINAL ACT AT URGING OF PCI, AND IZVESTIYA FEB 19 FRONT-PAGES STATEMENT BY POLISH PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ WHICH INCLUDES FAVORABLE MENTION ("PEACELOVING PUBLIC OPINION MET WITH ENORMOUS INTEREST") OF "ALL-EUROPEAN CONFERENCES OR INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS" ON ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY PROPOSED BY BREZHNEV IN WARSAW DEC 9.

4. ANGOLA. PRAVDA'S CHINA CORNER FEB 20 CARRIES TASS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LONDON ITEM ON ROBERTO INTERVIEW WITH RAND DAILY MAIL STATING THAT CHINESE SUPPORT FOR FNLA CONTINUES, THAT HE MEETS REGULARLY WITH PRC AMBASSADOR IN KINSHASA, AND THAT FNLA "WILL RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT MILITARY AID" FROM CHINESE "IN UPCOMING PERIOD."

5. FTAI. ONLY SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA REPORTS ON UNSC FTAI DEBATE: IT OPENS WITH SOMALI POSITION, BUT THEN RECOUNTS FRENCH POSITION AND CLOSES BY NOTING FRENCH WILLINGNESS TO BARGAIN. COMMENT. SOVIET MEDIA ARE HANDLING FTAI IN VERY GINGERLY FASHION, BUT THIS IS LEAST PRO-SOMALI TREATMENT WE HAVE SEEN SINCE COVERAGE BEGAN TWO WEEKS AGO. END COMMENT.
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